

points,] further comprising:

[a unit for detecting the distance (D1, D2) between two adjacent raster points;

a unit for resorting the priority code words, which are aligned with the raster points, in the coded bit stream in such a way as to obtain a linear arrangement of the same with frequency, the start of a priority code word coinciding with a raster point;]

a unit for identifying the code table associated with a spectral section;

[a] where the unit for decoding is designed to decode the priority code words of a spectral section with the corresponding associated code table. [to obtain decoded spectral values; and

a unit for transforming the decoded spectral values back into the time domain to obtain a decoded audio signal.]

**Methods and Devices for Coding or Decoding an Audio Signal
or Bit Stream**

Abstract

In a method for coding an audio signal to obtain a coded bit stream, discrete-time samples of the audio signal are transformed into the frequency domain to obtain spectral values. The spectral values are coded with a code table having a limited number of code words of different lengths to obtain spectral values coded by code words, the length of a code word assigned to a spectral value being that much shorter the higher the probability of occurrence of the spectral value is. A raster is then specified for the coded bit stream, the raster having equidistant raster points and the distance between the raster points depending on the code table(s) used. In order to obtain error-tolerant Huffman coding, priority code words, which represent particular spectral values which are psycho-acoustically more important than other spectral values, are so arranged in the raster that the start of each priority code word coincides with a raster point.



PRIORITY CODE WORDS



NON-PRIORITY CODE WORDS

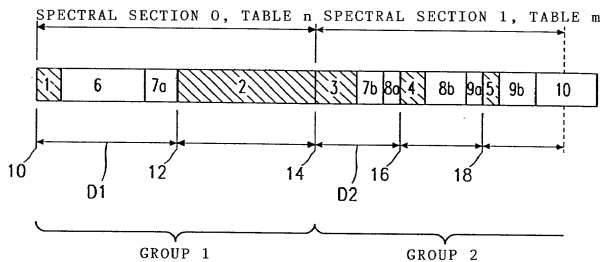


FIG. 1

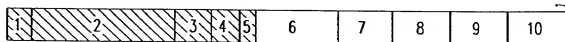


FIG. 2 (PRIOR ART)